

Message Text

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64

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 AEC-05 COME-00 EB-07 FEA-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 L-02

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R 251740Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1756

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 77

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 4381

VIENNA FOR IAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, GW, BR

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS IN BRAZIL

REF: (A) BRASILIA 8624 (B) BRASILIA 8604 (NOTAL) (C) BRASILIA 8544

1. IN FRANK DISCUSSION WITH CONGEN RIO OFFICERS ON NOV. 19, NATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEN) PRESIDENT HERVASIO CARVALHO CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORTS BY WESTINGHOUSE OFFICIALS ON BRAZIL'S EVOLVING NUCLEAR POLICIES. HE CONFIRMED THAT MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY UEKI WOULD BE SEEING WESTINGHOUSE REPS EARLY NEXT MONTH AND THAT HE (CARVALHO) WAS PREPARING AN ANALYSIS OF COMPANY'S PROPOSAL FOR THE MINISTER.

2. CARVALHO STRESSED THAT, DESPITE HIS CONSTANT URGINGS, U.S. MANUFACTURERS AND USG HAD BEEN SLOW TO RESPOND TO GOB'S
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NUCLEAR ENERGY DESIRES. MANUFACTURERS SUCH AS WESTINGHOUSE

UNTIL RECENTLY DID NOT HEED HIS ADVICE TO HELP ESTABLISH A NATIONAL NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. USG WAS UNRESPONSIVE TO GOB REQUESTS FOR ENRICHMENT FACILITIES. (ON LATTER POINT, CARVALHO DREW ANALOGY WITH THOSE NATIONS WHICH LONG AGO CONTROLLED PRODUCTION OF GUNPOWDER AND THOUGHT THEY COULD PREVENT ITS SPREAD TO REST OF WORLD.)

3. ON OTHER HAND, WEST GERMANS AND FRENCH SEEMED MOST ANXIOUS TO ASSIST BRAZIL IN ITS NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. FRANCE, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD OFFERED TO FINANCE AND TO BUILD A 10,000-TON GASEOUS DIFFUSION ENRICHMENT PLANT IN BRAZIL. ASKED WHY GOB DID NOT ACCEPT, CARVALHO REPLIED THAT SUCH AN INSTALLATION WOULD HAVE REQUIRED 3,000 MW TO OPERATE AND ITS OUTPUT WOULD EXCEED BRAZIL'S NEEDS. CNEN PRESIDENT THEN CONFIRMED THAT FRG WAS OFFERING BECKER NOZZLE ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT NO AGREEMENT HAD YET BEEN SIGNED WITH FRG. WHEN ASKED IF AND WHEN ONE MIGHT BE, HE STATED THAT IT MIGHT STILL BE A YEAR BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISIONS ARE MADE. CARVALHO EXPLAINED THAT SUCH AGREEMENTS ARE HIGHLY COMPLEX AND INVOLVE MANY LOOSE ENDS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE TIED DOWN.

4. CARVALHO CONFIRMED THAT ON NOVEMBER 18 PRESIDENT GEISEL HAD RE-APPOINTED HIM TO A SECOND FIVE-YEAR TERM AS CNEN PRESIDENT.

5. COMMENT: ON PERSONAL SIDE, CONGENN OFFICERS WERE DISTRESSED TO OBSERVE, AS OTHERS HAVE IN RECENT WEEKS, A MARKED DETERIORATION IN CARVALHO'S PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND MANNER. HE APPEARED HAGGARD, LISTLESS, AND RESIGNED. DESPITE HIS RE-APPOINTMENT AS CNEN PRESIDENT, CARVALHO OBVIOUSLY HAS LOST A GOOD DEAL OF INFLUENCE AND PRESTIGE WITHIN GOB CIRCLES. THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO IN RELATION TO PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NUCLEAR AGENCY (REFTEL C), WHICH WILL IMPLEMENT BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM AND WILL BE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO MINISTER. NONETHELESS, CARVALHO CLEARLY REMAINS SYMPATHETIC TOWARDS THE U.S., ALTHOUGH EXASPERATED BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE EXCESSIVE U.S. DELAYS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS DOOR WOULD BE OPEN TO US AT ANY TIME.

6. EMBASSY BRASILIA HAS REVIEWED AND CONCURS FOREGOING
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MESSAGE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, NUCLEAR RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974RIODE04381
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740341-1074
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741115/aaaaalxs.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BRASILIA 8624 (B) BRASILIA 8604, (NOTAL) (C) BRASILIA 8544
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS IN BRAZIL
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, GE, BR, US, WESTINGHOUSE, CNEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005